

Commission 3 Final Resolutions

United Nations Reform and Global Governance; Federalism at the Global and Regional Levels

Resolution

Meeting in Geneva this 31st day of August, 2007, 60 years after the organization's founding meetings, delegates to the XXV World Congress of the World Federalist Movement (WFM):

- 1) Recalling WFM's longstanding commitment to the necessity of reforming the United Nations system in accordance with the principles of democratic federalism;
- 2) Noting the tremendous progress that has been made in alerting fellow world citizens and civil society organizations to the need for United Nations and global governance reforms;
- 3) Recalling in particular the numerous statements of policy advanced over the years by world federalists, including resolutions at WFM Congresses in San Francisco (1995), Chennai (1998), London (2002);
- 4) Mindful also of the core principles that guide the movement, as reflected in the WFM constitution (preamble) and the widely recognized characteristics of federalism (democratic governance, subsidiarity, rule of law);
- 5) Recognizing that our pursuit of these world federalist objectives can be advanced through a number of approaches to political and social change, and requires the organized will and collaboration of a multiplicity of partners and stakeholders;
- 6) Affirming that critical political challenges shaping the future of humanity, such as international security, economic governance, protection of the environment, have assumed international dimensions, while throughout most of the world democracy still stops at national borders;
- 7) Affirming also that unregulated or poorly regulated globalization erodes state sovereignty and diminishes democracy; and consequently that citizens are challenged to evolve democratic institutions at the world level;

Hereby resolve to continue to pursue a reformed United Nations system and the democratization of global governance and toward these ends identify the following objectives:

UN Security Council reform

The disparity in size and power of member states is one of the most serious shortcomings of the UN's structure. WFM supports the reorganization of the Security Council on the basis of regional grouping of states (such as EU and AU) to avoid 1) power hierarchy and 2) fragmentation of the UN into a club powerless states.

WFM notes the ongoing efforts, particularly at the UN General Assembly, aimed at reforming the Security Council and supports reform of the Security Council to represent the major regions of the world with a rational, objectively determined, veto-free system of weighted voting that will lead to more open, transparent and equitable decision-making.

WFM supports in principle the elimination of permanent membership and the right of any members to veto Council decisions. WFM supports measures that lead to the elimination of the veto such as proposals to limit the use of veto in situations of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. WFM supports enhanced civil society participation in and monitoring of the Security Council (acknowledging in particular the recent leadership of NGOs such as "Security Council Report" and "Global Policy Forum").

WFM draws attention to Article 27.3 of the UN Charter which stipulates that 'a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting' on the matter and supports efforts to ensure that this article is respected.

WFM supports measures that enable Security Council procedures to become more open, transparent, accountable and efficient.

UN General Assembly

WFM supports efforts that enhance the authority of the General Assembly in relation to other parts of the UN system. General Assembly decisions on matters affecting the collective welfare of the world's citizens should become progressively more binding, enforceable and authoritative.

Civil society participation modalities in the work of the General Assembly, its main committees and other related UN agencies, commissions etc. should be strengthened.

WFM supports efforts and the development of strategies urging UN members to call a general conference to review the San Francisco charter of 1945, according to article 109 and through such procedure lead to global federalism.

UN financing

WFM recognizes that the expectations from and demands on the United Nations are increasing and that the UN lacks the resources to adequately achieve its objectives.

WFM supports measures that encourage member states to pay their UN dues on time and in full, as well as measures leading to a more equitable schedule of payments from UN member states.

WFM supports effective measures that provide the UN with its own revenues from sources independent of contributions from member states, e.g. revenues derived from progressive taxation of the international economy, on specified transnational corporate activities, a Carbon tax, or other new innovative means of financing such as been discussed in Financing for Development process; as well as substantive increase in the budget of specialized agencies and other UN program funds.

Global economic, social and environmental governance

WFM recognizes the need for a more coherent and integrated structure of global economic, social and environmental governance, one that makes the Bretton Woods institutions, World Trade Organization, and the family of UN affiliated agencies more accountable in respect of the values, policies and decisions of the UN

WFM reaffirms its longstanding support for the strengthening and reform of the ECOSOC (UN Economic and Social Council) in order that it be based on regional representation and empowered to play a central role in global economic, social and environmental policy and decision-making, until the creation of a democratic global parliamentary body.

WFM supports efforts to strengthen the international environmental governance structure such as the creation of a World Environmental Organization.

Global democratization

WFM reaffirms its support for the creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, conceived as a step toward a world parliament directly elected and endowed with legislative powers. WFM endorses the campaign for the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations.

WFM welcomes the growing participation of parliamentarians and parliamentary associations in the work of the UN, recognizing in particular the important roles and contributions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Parliamentarians for Global Action.

WFM supports efforts to establish the direct representation of the people of the world through a second or people's house at the UN.

WFM affirms its support for a UNGA Caucus for the establishment of an open transnational constituent assembly, according to UN Charter Art. 22.

Reforms for global democratization must not be restricted to UN processes.

WFM urges careful consideration of proposals for use of referenda, participatory and democratizing global constituent processes and other direct democracy instruments.

WFM supports measures that strengthen UN capacities for democracy promotion at the national and international levels. WFM particularly recognizes the successful UN-related International Conference of New or Restored Democracies (ICNRD) process, including the International Civil Society Forum for Democracy, while also recognizing the need to strengthen and institutionalize further the ICNRD process.

WFM reaffirms the essential and growing role of civil society in the work of international organizations and calls upon international stakeholders to progressively expand civil society participation rights and modalities. At the same time WFM is concerned over the decreasing support for civil society organizations (CSOs) by some governments as well as the tendency to support non-democratic CSOs and GONGOs (government-organized NGOs).

WFM supports initiatives for a worldwide political forum devoted to discussing the building of federal democratic institutions above nations states at the regional and global levels. Such a forum should be developed through the participation of civil society, NGOs, academics, political organizations and leaders from all over the world. WFM also supports the unification of present embryonic initiatives that are being carried on in this field.

WFM, while actively promoting several UN Charter reforms, essentially endorses the timely and democratic establishment of global federal institutions, fully-empowered to solve global problems.

Rule of law

In and era of globalization, WFM welcomes the continued expansion of international judicial regimes attached to functional agencies and international treaties, including a growing trend to recognize non-state entities (individuals, groups,

transnational corporations, etc.) in international legal regimes.

WFM regrets that the governments have not upheld the obligations and mandates of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and supports a process to ensure that all of its international agreements are binding, enforceable and include specific means and mechanisms to be fully funded and implemented.

WFM regrets that governments have not made better use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and renews its call for UN member states to recognize the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ.

WFM calls upon all governments to join the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court.

Federalism at the global and regional levels

WFM welcomes the fact that international politics reflects a growing commitment to investing political and decision-making authority in regional and sub-regional supranational organizations in many parts of the world.

WFM reaffirms its support for the strengthening and democratization of regional and sub-regional supranational organizations.

WFM welcomes the creation of the parliament of the MERCOSUR and encourages its extension to the regional level and its empowerment through the direct election of representatives and the development of real legislative powers.

WFM should take action to have an official accreditation in the African Union institutions.

WFM should encourage the African Union and the European Union to take the example from South African reconciliation to promote the reconciliation conference between Africa and Europe.

Statement on Weighted Voting and Weighted Representation

Whereas, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan spoke to the UN General Assembly in September, 2003 and called for radical reform of the core organs of the UN, and

Whereas, the WFM supports and endorses the reform and strengthening of the UN and its Security Council and General Assembly in particular, and

Whereas the Binding Triad proposal for the General Assembly and other weighted voting proposals for the revitalization of the UN are being presented to foreign ministries throughout the world, now therefore,

WFM at its XXV World Congress of August 2007, meeting in Geneva also urges careful consideration of proposals for veto-free weighted voting and weighted representation in the United Nations.